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Doubts Rockets Downed It

U-2 Expert Thinks Photos Really Showed a Red Plane

By United Press International
BURBANK, Calif., May 10

(UPI)—The designer of Lockheed Aircraft's U-2 also said Monday that Russian pictures of a crashed plane inside the U. S. S. R. were faked and doubts it was knocked from the sky by Soviet rocket gunners.

C. J. Johnson, veteran design engineer, said he believed the pictures, released by the Russians actually were of one of their own crashed B-2 bomber.

The U-2, which the Russians claimed they shot down with a new anti-aircraft rocket while it was deep inside the Soviet Union, probably was forced down by mechanical trouble, if they actually have it, Mr. Johnson said. If they do, it probably is hidden away where Russian design and espionage experts are studying it, he added.

"After spending the best part of the week end analyzing the photographs with my top technical people," he said in a prepared statement released by Lockheed, "I am convinced that the Russians for some reason have released pictures of some other airplane crash."

"I do not believe they shot down the U-2 either with a missile or another aircraft. If they have the U-2 it is because some mechanical or oxygen failure caused it to descend far below its normal cruising altitude." He said the photographs did not match the design characteristics of the U-2. Russian claimed was shot down. He as-

serted that "it would be very interesting to know who they have hidden the U-2."

Using the original wire photo which shows better detail than the newspaper reproduction, not one single U-2 part could be identified in the wreckage, he said.

Parts Not the Same

He said the wing section of the plane was not the same, the heavy structural element at the top of the photograph has no counterpart of the U-2 and it would be highly unlikely that Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev would wave around pictures of so important a nature. Mr. Johnson's statement indicated he believed the Russians had captured the U-2 intact.

Mr. Johnson said that if the wreckage were as bad as that shown it would be extremely unlikely that Mr. Khrushchev would have any film taken from plane, since much of the wreckage is damaged by fire, which might well destroy the film.

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